(c) whether Government is holding consultations with the stakeholders including the State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRl JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Government permits export of iron-ore with iron content upto 64% without canalization. While export of iron ore with more than 64% iron content is canalized through MMTC Ltd., Government permits export of iron-ore fines with more than 64% iron content against licence by private mine owners/leaseholders.

(b) As per available information, India has sufficient resources of iron-ore. As on 1.4.2005 these resources are estimated at 25.25 billion tonnes, consisting of 14.63 billion tonnes of Haematite and 10.619 billion tonnes of Magnetite and they are continuing to increase. The production of iron-ore in india far exceeds the demand of the domestic steel industries and surplus iron-ore is exported.

(c) and (d) A Committee, constituted by the Cabinet Secretariat, examined the issue of restrictions on iron-ore export. The various stakeholders including State Governments were also consulted. Committee of Secretaries has also considered this issue and subsequently the matter was referred to a Group of Ministers (GoM). The GoM has considered the issue and has recommended that at present no restrictions or curbs are required to be imposed on export of iron-ore.

Subsidy for export of sugar

†2305. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are providing subsidy for export of sugar because of the production of sugar being higher than the demand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is mandatory for Government to provide subsidy to sell Indian sugar in the international market due to production cost of sugar in the country being higher; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government on this matter and the amount of subsidy provided to the sugar industry for export during the year 2005-06, 2006-07 and upto the month of June in 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (b)The prices of non-levy sugar in the domestic as well as international market have declined considerably due to excess production of sugar in the country and in the world during 2006-07 sugar season. In order to help the sugar industry to liquidate the excess stock of sugar and to clear the cane price arrears of sugarcane

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

growers,, the Government has allowed export assistance to defray a part of expenditure on internal transport, marketing and handling charges and ocean freight @ Rs. 1350/- per tonne for sugar factories located in coastal areas and Rs. 1450/- per tonne for sugar factories located in non-coastal areas (subject to actuals for export by road/rail in case of neighbouring countries). The scheme has been announced for a period of one year with effect from 19th April, 2007.

(c) No, Sir

(d) During the financial year 2005-06 and 2006-07, the Government has not announced any export assistance for export of sugar. As such, the question of giving assistance for exports made during these years does not arise. In the year 2007-08, the Government is yet to invite claims for export assistance from the sugar mills.

Rehabilitation of homeless people due to SEZs

†2306. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a policy for rehabilitation of a large number of people who would become homeless as a result of establishing Special Economic Zones in the country;

(b) if so, the details ofthe policy; and

(c) the officials/authority responsible for implementing the said policy as well as the provision of punishment set for being defiant in implementing the said policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) A Group of Ministers under the Chairmanship of Minister of Agriculture has been constituted to consider the amendments to the Land Acquisition Act and also a new Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy. As and when these are implemented, it will applicable for acquisitior of land for various purposes, including for Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

Non-acceptability of mall culture

†2307. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to media reports titled "Only 10-12 per cent of malls in India successful";

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.